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ABSTRACT

Many newer colleges, actively promoting a multi-media approach to instructional support, eschew the term "library" in favor of "learning resource center" or a similar designation. As of 1991, the state of Texas had 63 separately identifiable public community/junior colleges. Of the 63 colleges, 28 (44%) designated their resource center by the term "library," while 29 (46%) designated it as a "learning resource center." Of the remaining six colleges (10%), two used the term "library and learning resources center," two used the term "learning center," and one each used the terms "library learning center" and "learning resources services." The resource center was more frequently designated a "library" among small and medium-sized colleges. The chief administrative officer of the resource center was identified by the title of "director" at 36 (57%) of the colleges, while the title of "dean," "associate dean," or "assistant dean" was used by 20 colleges (32%). Four of the remaining seven colleges (11%) employed the title of "head librarian," two used the title "librarian," and one the title "coordinator." The chief administrative officer of the resource center was designated as "director" among 73% of those colleges identified as small, whereas 58% of large colleges employed the title of "dean" or one of its variations. (JMC)

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DESIGNATION OF TEXAS PUBLIC COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGE RESOURCE CENTERS AND THEIR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

by

David Drake

The proliferation of American public community and junior colleges in the 1960's and early 1970's impacted librarians in ways beyond the increased demand for services created by the groundswell of new institutions and burgeoning enrollments. The newer colleges, actively promoting a multi-media approach for instructional support, frequently eschewed the term "library" in favor of "learning resource center" or a similar designation, with the chief administrative officer of the same most commonly designated as "director." Veit's study of 1964 indicated that the terms "library," "librarian," and "head librarian" were still prevalent at that time,[1] but by 1972 Matthews found that 41.2 percent of the designations had a learning resource connotation, including 35 variants on the term "director of learning resources."[2]

Given this trend, one might expect the terms "library," "librarian," and "head librarian" to have virtually vanished from public community/junior colleges following the nearly two decades since Matthews' study. In Texas, at least, this has not occurred.

As of 1991, the state of Texas has forty-nine public community/junior college districts. Because the larger districts consist of more than one college, the state actually has sixty-three separately identifiable public community/junior colleges. "Separately

identifiable," as used here, indicates that the college operates as an entity with its own faculty, administration, and physical facilities, even though it may be part of a multiple-college district. For this study, branch campuses and extension centers are not considered to be separately identifiable colleges, although they may maintain resource centers. "Resource center," as used here, is an inclusive term to encompass libraries, learning resources centers, or any other titles used to designate the college agency charged with acquiring and disseminating print and non-print information in support of the instructional program. The sources for all data presented here are the current institutional catalogs.

Of the sixty-three colleges, twenty-eight (44%) designate their resource center by the term "library," while twenty-nine (46%) designate it as the "learning resources center." Of the remaining six colleges (10%), two use the term "library and learning resources center;" two use the term "learning center;" and one each uses the term "library learning center" and "learning resources services."

The chief administrative officer of the resource center is most frequently identified by the title of "director" (thirty-six colleges, 57% of total). The title of "dean," "associate dean," or "assistant dean" is used by twenty colleges (32%). The remaining seven colleges (11%) employ the title of "head librarian" four times, "librarian" twice, and "coordinator" once.

In an attempt to recognize patterns of designation (if any) correlated to college size, the following distinctions are made regarding the full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of Texas public community/junior colleges:

FTE:

2,500 or less (Small). Twenty-six colleges are in this category.

2,501-5,000 (Medium). Twenty-five colleges are in this category.

5,001 and above (Large). Twelve colleges are in this category.

Among those colleges identified as Small, fourteen (54%) designate their resource as a "library;" nine (35%) as the "learning resources center;" and three (11%) by other designations. Among those colleges identified as Medium, twelve (48%) designate their resource center as a "library;" twelve (48%) as the "learning resources center;" and one (4%) by another term. Among those colleges identified as Large, two (17%) designate their resource center as the "library;" eight (67%) as the "learning resources center;" and two (17%) by another term.

The chief administrative officer of the resource center is designated by nineteen (73%) of the Small colleges as "director;" as "dean, associate dean, or assistant dean" by three (11%) of the Small colleges; and by another title by four (15%) of the remaining Small colleges. Among those colleges identified as Medium, twelve (48%) designate their chief administrative officer as "director;" ten (40%) employ the title "dean, associate dean, or assistant dean;" while three use some other title. Among those colleges identified as Large, five (42%) designate their chief administrative officer as "director;" seven (67%) as "dean, associate dean, or assistant dean." No other titles are reported by the Large colleges.

CONCLUSIONS

There is no predominant designation for Texas public community/junior college resource centers, with a fairly equal balance

existing between the terms "library" and "learning resources center" or a combination of these terms.

The title of "director" for the chief administrative officer of the resource center is most common when all colleges are considered or only those which designate their resource center as a "library;" however, the more senior title of "dean," "associate dean," or "assistant dean" is used by half (fourteen of twenty-eight, 50%) of those colleges employing the term "learning resources center" for their resource center. The title of "dean," "associate dean," or "assistant dean" is used by six of twenty-nine, or 21%, of those colleges designating their resource center as a "library."

The size, or enrollment, of the institution does appear to make a difference in the designation of both the resource center and its chief administrative officer. The resource center is more frequently designated a "library" among those colleges identified as Small and Medium (54% and 48% of total, respectively) than among those identified as Large (17% of total). The chief administrative officer of the resource center is designated as "director" among 73% of those colleges identified as Small, as opposed to 48% of the Medium and 42% of the Large. The title of "dean" or its variations is employed by only 11% of the Small colleges, by 40% of the Medium colleges, but by 58% of the Large colleges.

Clearly, in Texas public community/junior colleges the term "library" has not been superseded by "learning resources center." The title of "director" is the most commonly used designation for the chief administrative officer, regardless of the designation of the resource center, but the titles of "librarian" and "head librarian"

are still in use as well.

It would probably be impossible to discern who determined the current designation of both the resource center and its chief administrative officer for each institution, but the author suspects that in many cases the designations were originally made by a non-librarian, i.e., a chancellor, president, vice-president, etc. In such instances, the designations will reflect the bias and background (or lack thereof) of that administrator and may not necessarily be accurate nomenclature.

A list of institutions involved in this study follows, each identified by size with designation of resource center and chief administrative officer noted. Abbreviations used are: C=College; CC=Community College; JC=Junior College; S=Small; M=Medium; L=Large; LRC=Learning Resources Center.

INSTITUTION/SIZE	RESOURCE CENTER	CHIEF ADMIN. OFFICER
Alvin CC (M)	Library	Librarian
Amarillo C (M)	Library Learning Ctr.	Director
Angelina C (S)	Library	Director
Austin CC (L)	Learning Resource Services	Director
Bee County C (S)	LRC	Director
Blinn C (M)	Library	Director
Brazosport C (S)	Library	Director
Brookhaven C (M)	LRC	Dean
Cedar Valley C (S)	LRC	Dean
Central Texas C (M)	Library	Dean
Cisco JC (S)	LRC	Director
Clarendon C (S)	Library	Director
C of the Mainland (M)	Library	Director
Collin County CC (M)	LRC	Dean
Cooke County C (S)	Library	Director
Del Mar C (L)	Library	Associate Dean
Eastfield C (L)	LRC	Dean
El Centro C (L)	LRC	Dean
El Paso CC (L)	LRC	Director (District)
Frank Phillips C (S)	LRC	Head Librarian
Galveston C (S)	Library	Assistant Dean
Grayson County C (S)	LRC	Director
Hill C (S)	Library	Director
Houston CC (L)	LRC	Director
Howard C (S)	Library and LRC	Director
Kilgore C (M)	Library	Director

INSTITUTION/SIZE	RESOURCE CENTER	CHIEF ADMIN. OFFICER
Laredo JC (M)	Library	Director
Lee C (M)	LRC	Head Librarian
McLennan CC (M)	Library	Director
Midland C (M)	LRC	Director
Mountain View C (M)	LRC	Dean
Navarro C (S)	Library	Director
North Harris County C:		
East (S)	LRC	Director
South (M)	LRC	Director
Tomball (S)	LRC	Director
North Lake C (M)	LRC	Dean
Northeast Texas CC (S)	LRC	Director
Odessa C (M)	LRC	Associate Dean
Palo Alto C (S)	LRC	Director
Panola JC (S)	Library	Head Librarian
Paris JC (S)	Learning Center	Director
Ranger JC (S)	Library	Head Librarian
Richland C (L)	LRC	Dean
St. Philip's C (M)	LRC	Coordinator
San Antonio C (L)	Library	Director
San Jacinto C:		
Central (M)	Library	Dean (District)
North (S)	Library	Dean (District)
South (S)	Library	Dean (District)
South Plains C (M)	Library	Director
Southwest Texas JC (S)	Library	Director

INSTITUTION/SIZE	RESOURCE CENTER	CHIEF ADMIN. OFFICER
Tarrant County JC:		
Northeast (L)	LRC	Dean
Northwest (M)	LRC	Dean
South (L)	LRC	Dean
Temple JC (S)	Library	Director
Texarkana C (S)	Library	Director
Trinity Valley CC (M)	LRC	Director
Tyler JC (L)	Library and LRC	Dean
Vernon Regional JC (S)	LRC	Associate Dean
Victoria C (S)	Library	Director
Weatherford C (S)	Library	Librarian
Western Texas C (S)	LRC	Director
Wharton County JC (S)	Learning Center	Director

Endnotes

1. Fritz Veit, "Personnel," in Library Services for Junior Colleges, edited by Charles L. Trinkner (Northport, AL: American Southern Pub. Co., 1964).

2. Elizabeth W. Matthews, "Characteristics and Academic Preparation of Directors of Library-Learning Resource Centers in Selected Community Junior College" (Ph.D. dissertation, College of Education, Southern Illinois University, 1973).

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